

Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases, including AIDS

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is divisional of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/306,286 filed on May 6, 1999, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/995,730, filed on December 22, 1997, now U.S. Patent 6,333,032, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/771,831, filed on December 23, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,888,511.

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which is a CIP of 08/025,408 ^{08/1993} U.S. Patent 5,626,843

Field of Invention

The present invention is a method to treat autoimmune diseases and conditions in a patient, which are caused by the disturbance of the synthesis of interferons (IFNs) and certain other substances (e.g., tumor necrosis factors (TNFs)) and the production of autoantibodies to target cells, including CD4 cells, which damage the patient's immune system and have a direct pathological action on the patient's cells.

Background of the Invention

The ability of the immune system to discriminate between "self" and "non-self" antigens is vital to the functioning of the immune system as a specific defense against invading microorganisms. "Non-self" antigens are those antigens on substances entering or in the body which are detectably different or foreign from the animal's own constituents, whereas "self" antigens are those which, in the healthy animal, are not detectably different or foreign from its own constituents. However, under certain conditions, including in certain disease states, an individual's immune system will identify its own constituents as "non-self," and initiate an immune response against "self" material, at times causing more damage or discomfort as from an invading microbe or foreign material, and often producing serious illness in an individual. Autoimmune disease results when an individual's immune system attacks his own organs or tissues, producing a clinical condition associated with the destruction of that tissue, as